

## CLAIMS LISTING

### CLAIMS

We claim:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (Amended) A method of one step synthesis of stable isotope labeled internal standards and additional chemical reaction for the purpose of identification and quantification of carboxylic acid~~(s)~~ in [a] an aqueous sample comprising the steps of:

a) synthesizing labeled carboxylic acid ester for use as labeled internal standard by reaction of an authentic sample of carboxylic acid with a labeled derivatizing reagent having at least one stable isotope atom;

b) combining a known amount of [a] said labeled carboxylic acid ester internal standard with said sample comprising said carboxylic acid ;

[b] c) contacting said resulting sample with [~~either~~] a non labeled version of said labeled derivatizing reagent [~~chloroformate and an alcohol or a base and an alkyl halide~~] to convert said carboxylic acid in said sample into a carboxylic acid ester of identical structure as that of said carboxylic acid ester internal standard with the exception of [~~except for~~] the stable isotope atoms and wherein there is no reaction of said labeled carboxylic acid ester with said derivatizing reagent;

[e] d) extracting said sample to isolate said carboxylic acid ester and said labeled carboxylic acid ester internal standard; and

[d] e) analyzing said carboxylic acid ester and said labeled carboxylic acid ester internal standard

in the extract by mass spectrometry to determine the concentration of said carboxylic acid in said sample.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said mass spectrometric method is the ~~[isotope dilution]~~ mass spectrometric method using stable isotope labeled internal standard.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said carboxylic acid ~~[is a carboxylic acid having]~~ has the ~~[following]~~ chemical formulas  $R_1COOH$  wherein  $R_1$  is alkyl group or aryl group or heteroatom containing group or cyclic group or non-cyclic group.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said labeled carboxylic acid ester ~~[internal standard is a stable isotope labeled internal standard]~~ has the chemical formulas  $R_1COO R_2$  wherein  $R_1$  is alkyl group or aryl group or heteroatom containing group or cyclic group or non-cyclic group and  $R_2$  is a labeled alkyl group having at least one stable isotope atom.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said ~~[carboxylic acid ester internal standard is synthesized by reacting an authentic sample of said carboxylic acid with a stable isotope labeled reagent to form said carboxylic acid ester internal standard having the following formula  $R_1OCOR_2$  wherein  $R_2$  is a stable isotope labeled alkyl group]~~ labeled derivatizing reagent is a labeled alcohol  $R_2OH$  wherein  $R_2$  is a labeled alkyl group having at least one stable isotope atom and said non labeled derivatizing reagent is the same alcohol  $R_2OH$  except that  $R_2$  contains no stable isotope atom and the derivatization reaction is performed in the presence of a chloroformate and a base.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein said stable isotope labeled alkyl group  $R_2$  is  $CD_3$  wherein said carboxylic acid is reacted with a chloroformate and a labeled methanol, or with a base and a labeled methyl iodide.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said stable isotope labeled alkyl group  $R_2$  [is] includes  $CD_3$ ,  $CD_2CD_3$ , and  $CD_2C_6D_5$  [~~wherein said carboxylic acid is reacted with a chloroformate and a labeled ethanol, or with a base and a labeled ethyl iodide~~].
32. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein said stable isotope labeled alkyl group  $R_2$  is  $CD_2C_6D_5$  wherein said carboxylic acid is reacted with a base and a labeled benzyl chloride.
33. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said extraction step [c] d) can be any appropriate separating methods such as solid phase extraction, liquid-liquid extraction or solid supported liquid-liquid extraction.
34. (Amended) The method of claim [25] 29 wherein said non labeled alcohol  $R_2OH$  is selected from a group consisting of methanol, benzyl alcohol, and ethanol.
35. (Amended) The method of claim [25] 29 wherein said chloroformate is selected from a group consisting of isobutyl chloroformate, methyl chloroformate, and ethyl chloroformate.
36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein said alkyl halide is selected from a group consisting of methyl iodide, ethyl iodide, and benzyl chloride.
37. (Amended) The method of claim [25] 29 wherein said base is selected from a group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, pyridine and triethylamine.
38. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said sample contains either a singularity or a plurality of [~~said~~] carboxylic acids.
39. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein [~~said multiple~~] more than one carboxylic acids in said sample can be converted to [~~said multiple~~] carboxylic acid esters using [~~either a chloroformate and~~] a single derivatizing reagent [~~alcohol or a base and a single alkyl halide~~].

40. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein ~~[said multiple]~~ more than one labeled carboxylic acid ester internal standards can be synthesized using ~~[either] a [chloroformate and a]~~ single labeled derivatizing reagent~~[alcohol or a base and a single labeled alkyl halide]~~.
41. (Canceled) The method of claim 25 wherein there is no conversion of said stable isotope labeled carboxylic acid ester internal standard to its corresponding non-labeled carboxylic acid ester compound during step b).
42. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said ~~[converting]~~ additional reaction step [b] c) is performed in an aqueous environment.
43. (Canceled) The method of claim 25 wherein said converting step b) is performed before said extraction step.
44. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said ~~[converting step b)]~~ reaction to form labeled carboxylic acid ester internal standards and additional reaction to form carboxylic acid esters are [is] quantitative meaning all carboxylic acids are completely transformed into carboxylic acid esters.
45. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein said stable isotope atom includes deuterium, carbon-13, nitrogen-15, and oxygen-18.